

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate 25 years of observing Religious Freedom Day.

On this day, more than 200 years ago, our forefathers in the Virginia General Assembly sought to practice their respective religions freely, so they passed a State law which secured our ability to exercise our faith freely today. The context of this initial law formed the inspiration for the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Our country holds among its most fundamental freedoms the right to practice freely one's religion and associate with others who share those same beliefs.

As we know from experience, freedom is not without cost and it is not free. It must be protected and nourished, and our communities of faith, in particular, need to be safeguarded from government encroachment and intrusion.

It is with this in mind, Mr. Speaker, that I will continue to work with my colleagues to defend our First Amendment and our communities of faith on Religious Freedom Day and every day.

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IT IS TIME WE SHOW OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, since the Trump administration announced the end of the DACA program in September, more than 16,000 people have already lost their protection from deportation and their ability to work. Each day we fail to act to protect DREAMers, 122 more people lose those protections and the ability to contribute to their country in the same way they have for as long as they have lived here.

These DREAMers teach our children, care for our loved ones, start businesses, strengthen our communities, defend our Nation, and believe that our country, their country, will see them for the Americans they are.

One of our country's proudest DREAMers, Jose Antonio Vargas, once said:

Citizenship to me is more than a piece of paper. Citizenship is also about character. I am an American. We are just waiting for our country to recognize it.

Jose is right. It is high time our country recognizes the DREAMers for the Americans they really are. It is time we show our national character.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we observe Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I would like to recognize

organizations in my home district of Miami that are working to put an end to this modern day slavery.

As a tourist destination and a gateway to the Americas, south Florida is a preferred spot for criminals to commit these types of outrageous human rights violations. But thanks to organizations like Kristi House and The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, there is a critical campaign afoot to bring public awareness and to stop this terrible scourge.

St. Thomas University has created the Human Trafficking Academy, which offers training and technical assistance to law enforcement, lawyers, and the general public.

Resources like the Human Trafficking Miami Hotline, led by our esteemed Miami-Dade State attorney's office, serves victims and survivors of human trafficking by encouraging calls to 305-350-5567.

We are also blessed to have devoted law enforcement officers who are committed to a zero tolerance campaign to protect victims, to prosecute and dismantle traffickers.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, south Florida is dedicated to fighting this crime. A future free of human trafficking is out there, and I urge every American to make that a reality.

TAKING ISSUE WITH THE COMMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as an American, I certainly celebrate religious freedom and acknowledge the importance of freedom of religion and speech and the ability to have access to a free press.

Sadly, I rise to take issue with the comments said by the Commander in Chief, well documented by Senator DURBIN and the Senator from South Carolina, LINDSEY GRAHAM, who delicately tried to instruct the Commander in Chief of the ugliness of his words.

I will not say them on the floor, and I have not said the complete word, but over this weekend of the beloved community of Dr. Martin Luther King, everywhere I went, people were appalled. I believe that it is crucial that we pass the Dream Act and that we speak to the racism of this President through 1973, 1980, 1988, and 1989.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR. BILLY LEE

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Billy Lee, who passed away on December 21 at the age of 85.

Mr. Lee owned McDonough's, the oldest Irish pub in Savannah; and the upstairs restaurant, Billy's Place. Mr. Lee and McDonough's are iconic in Savannah. McDonough's has been voted the best karaoke in town for 8 straight years and is an immensely popular watering hole for all Savannahians.

Mr. Lee never met a stranger in McDonough's and he had an extremely sharp memory for its patrons. His kindness is fondly remembered by all who frequented McDonough's, including times when he purchased blankets for the homeless, allowed folks to use his business for charity events, and opened his building for Hurricane Irma evacuees from Florida.

Mr. Lee has commented on his restaurant and bar: That's the story of what we do here. We help people.

Mr. Lee's kind spirit will be missed in Savannah, and I hope that people will continue to learn from his example for years to come.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST VOTE CAST BY A WOMAN IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the first vote cast by a woman in the State of New York. 100 years ago, the residents of Lisle, New York, and Broome County held a special election to decide if liquor could be served in the town of Lisle. This was the first vote held in the State of New York after women had just recently gained the right to vote just 2 months prior, thanks to the efforts of other famous New Yorkers who are memorialized in our historic Capitol rotunda: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott.

On January 25, 1918, shortly after 6 a.m., right before the polls opened, on a cold, snowy day in the southern tier, the Ladies of Lisle lined up outside to cast their first vote. When the doors opened, a woman named Florence B. Chauncey was the first to step forward and place her ballot in the box at the Lisle Village Hall.

This year, on January 5, a historic marker was unveiled at the old Lisle Village Hall to commemorate this momentous occasion. This extraordinary act will now be memorialized forever on the Main Street in Lisle.

OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS UNDER ASSAULT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is important to point out that religious freedom is indeed a cornerstone of the founding and the fiber of the United States. What started out in the Virginia General Assembly on this date in